



## Birregurra Sustainable Communities Water Update

Summer is fast approaching, and this is usually when water usage is at its highest in Birregurra. The Sustainable Communities – Water program has supported Birregurra customers to reduce their summer water use by around 9% since 2018. Whilst an increase in usage is expected at this time of the year, (watering gardens to keep them looking their best and topping up the swimming pool), it's important that we continue to use water sustainably as the weather heats up.

The graph below indicates higher water usage during the summer months (January – March) in Birregurra.

### Waterwise garden tips

Outdoor water usage accounts for 20 to 50% of the average Australian household's water use, it's one of the biggest users of water in our homes. To be more waterwise in your garden, check your watering systems, garden taps and hoses are leak free. Make sure all your garden hoses are fitted with a trigger nozzle and a tap timer. Adding mulch to your garden beds will help keep the soil covered and trap in moisture, reducing water evaporation by up to 70%. Water your garden in the early morning or late evening and you'll be well on your way to having a beautiful waterwise garden. There's plenty of information available online when it comes to being waterwise in the garden [smartwateradvice.org/how-to-save-water/garden/](https://www.smartwateradvice.org/how-to-save-water/garden/) or even pay a visit to your local nursery for some expert advice.

### Feedback survey

To improve and inform the future of Birregurra Sustainable Communities – Water, we've conducted a survey to gather

customer and community feedback about the program, to understand your personal experience, identify new initiatives of interest to the community and where we can improve. Feedback will also help to inform future initiatives for Birregurra customers and community.

The survey has now closed and those who completed it will go into the draw for one of 10 chances to win \$50 off their next water bill. Competition prize winners will be notified and winners announced on 18 October 2023. For more information, including the competition terms and conditions and a list of prize winners visit [www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/birregurra](https://www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/birregurra).

### Water supply upgrade community drop-in

We've commenced construction on the new underground pipeline that will connect Birregurra to Colac's water supply. The upgrade will ensure we can continue to provide high quality, affordable and secure services for our existing customers, as well as cater for future growth. We've hosted a few community pop-ups over recent months to provide the community with more information about the new water supply and to answer questions.

Our next drop-in session will be held on:

**Sunday 12 November – Birregurra Sunday Market**  
between 9am and 2pm

We hope to see you there! To stay up-to-date about the project, please visit <https://www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/birre-upgrade>.

For further details on the Birregurra Sustainable Communities – Water program and our Living Laboratory project, visit [www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/birregurra](https://www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/birregurra).

